SPY×FAMILY

BY TATSUYA ENDO

DID YOU JUST SAY YOU MET DAMIAN'S MOTHER?

MISSION 66

YOU HELPED OUT THE WIFE OF A FORMER PRIME MINISTER? THAT'S QUITE A STORY.

SY-ON BOY'S MOM ?!

THAT'S RIGHT. I HELPED OUT A WOMAN AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE, AND IT TURNED OUT TO BE—

TRANSLATION: CASEY LOE

LETTERING: RINA MAPA

MELINDA DESMOND.

Ha ha ha

YOU DIDN'T GET ON HER BAD SIDE, DID YOU?

OH NO! WHAT IF I SAID SOMETHING DISRESPECT-FUL...?

YOR... YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT...?

HUH? MELINDA'S FAMOUS?!

NO. SHE HAD A STRANGE AIR ABOUT HER, BUT SHE WAS ACTUALLY REALLY NICE.

RMB

RMB

RMB

MOTHER OF DAMIAN. AND, MORE NOTABLY...

Whoa...

Anya Forger.

The girl who got in a fight with my son on orientation day, right?

RMB

THE WIFE OF NATIONAL UNITY PARTY CHAIRMAN DONOVAN DESMOND !!!

RMB

Y-y-you're Damian's mother ?!

Bwaaah! I am so so so so sorry!

RMB

Oh, now I remember, Yor.

Yor, dear ...

Oh, you're the mom!

Please don't blame Anya! It's my fault for teaching her all those terrible things...

Ha ha ha!

It's fiiiine! I'm telling you, it's totally fine!

B-but...

Don't spare it another thought! It's fine!

Even my husband seems to have waved it off as just a childish squabble.

I really don't care about that.

I said that it's fine, Yor.

With both their boys being so exceptional, they hardly need much attention. I'm so jealous!

The Desmonds follow what you might call a hands-off parenting philosophy.

...

And I must say, knowing that you're the mother of such an interesting little girl has me all the more curious about you.

Oh... I guess there really are all sorts of different ways to be a parent...

Most of us here were her friends from before she was First Lady.

I hope you know how lucky you are, Yor.

Oh, stop with all the ancient history talk.

Melinda almost never invites strangers to our get-togethers like this!

Wait, are you saying you didn't know who Melinda was when you went with her?

Behold humanity's first woman!

Ha ha!

I won't rest until I am first in everything!

First Lady ...?

Hee hee hee!

The truth is, I didn't want to tell you. I'm sorry.

I didn't really forget to introduce myself.

That's what I thought.

That's why I didn't hesitate to ask her!

Considering my position, I don't have many friends I can be myself around.

Thank you, Yor. I'm delighted to hear it.

I don't see anything wrong with wanting to be first! (?)

Uh... no. Of course not.

Now that you know, it won't make this strange for you, will it?

Melin-da...

I know I asked you to come see us again, as if it were no big deal...

...but if there are any, say, political considerations that make it uncomfortable for you, I understand.

That said...

If it's still possible ...

...I do hope you and I can be friends, Yor.

Well, it's probably time we adjourned for today.

I'll give you a ride.

What we were talking about earlier...

ゴオオオオオ

MRV

Maybe he really has been getting along well with your Anya lately.

The word from my household staff is that he seems to be enjoying Eden Academy.

Hm? Oh...

MUTTER

About my son.

She does?

I'm so glad.

Oh, yes! Anya brings him up all the time, and she always seems so happy when she's telling us about him!

MUTTER

I do hope they can stay friends...

AND THAT WAS WHERE OUR TALK ENDED.

OOEY CAKES?!

OH, ANYA, HERE ARE ALL THE SWEETS I RECEIVED FROM DAMIAN'S MOM. I GOT CRUNCHY CAKES AND CRUMBLY CAKES AND GOOEY CAKES AND OOEY CAKES...

...

GOSH, I WOULD IMAGINE!

WELL, I'M SURE THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF COMPLICATED FACTORS INVOLVED IN BEING A FORMER FIRST FAMILY.

OF COURSE, WISE HAS BEEN MONITORING HER AS WELL.

MELINDA DESMOND. WIFE OF THE NATIONAL UNITY PARTY'S CHAIRMAN.

AS SUCH, SHE'S LONG BEEN DEEMED A HIGH-RISK, LOW-REWARD TARGET IN TERMS OF INFORMATION VALUE. EVEN SO...

PLUS SHE SEEMS SOMEWHAT ESTRANGED FROM HER HUSBAND AND SONS.

SINCE THEIR PARTY LOST POWER, SHE HASN'T INVOLVED HERSELF IN POLITICS. WISE HASN'T FOUND MUCH OF ANYTHING ABOUT HER WORTH REPORTING.

Melinda Desmond

BUT LIKE HER HUSBAND, SHE KEEPS HER CIRCLE SMALL AND EXCLUSIVE.

ACK!

COULD YOR HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO INITIATE CONTACT? IS THAT WHY SHE WENT TO THAT DEPARTMENT STORE?

I-I WASN'T TRAPPED!

...

AWW, YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE GONE TO THAT DEPARTING STORE AND GOTTEN TRAPPED BY FANCY PEOPLE IF I HADN'T ASKED FOR ALL THOSE CAKES, RIGHT?

AFTER ALL, IF SHE HAD, WHAT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE POINT OF TELLING ME ABOUT IT?

CONSIDERING THE CIRCUM-STANCES AND HER REACTION, I CAN'T IMAGINE SHE SET THIS UP.

NO, I RESEARCHED YOR'S BACKGROUND THOROUGHLY.

RMB

RMB

OR COULD THIS MEETING HAVE BEEN ARRANGED? AND IF SO, WHY?

CAN I REALLY AFFORD TO DISMISS THIS AS A CHANCE ENCOUNTER?

RMB

RMB

Hm... Maybe I should be the one who brings cakes next time. To apologize for my lack of manners...

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HE WOULD USE HIS OWN WIFE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

RMB

BUT FOR WHAT PURPOSE? AS A WAY TO GET TO ME? DID I DO SOMETHING TO RAISE DONOVAN'S SUSPICIONS DURING OUR MEETING?

DUM

DUM

DUM

MY NAME IS

IF THIS IS A SETUP, IT HAS TO BE FROM MELINDA'S SIDE.

WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I ATTENDED ANOTHER ONE OF THEIR *MOMMY* GET-TOGETHERS?

COULD IT BE A SIMPLE ACT OF INTIMIDATION DIRECTED AT THE FAMILY OF THE GIRL WHO PUNCHED THEIR SON? NO. CONSIDERING THE RELATIONSHIPS THEY HAVE WITH THEIR CHILDREN, THAT SEEMS UNLIKELY. BUT I DON'T DARE TO JUST HOPE FOR THE BEST. I NEED FACTS THAT—

SO, UM, LOID... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

DIZZY DIZZY

I'd still keep up with the house-work...

LEARNING ABOUT PARENT-ING FROM THEM COULD HELP ME GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT'S NORMAL!

I REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HOW THE WORLD WORKS.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, YOR.

WAIT.

WOULD IT HARM OUR RELATIONSHIP TO DENY HER? BUT TO AGREE WITHOUT UNDER-STANDING WHO'S PLAYING WHO HERE—

I don't know that I'd consider the Desmonds a model of normalcy...

WHAT'S THE PLAY HERE, TWILIGHT?

THAT SAID...

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

OH... YES.

YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE SOME GREAT EFFORT JUST TO LEARN WHAT'S NORMAL.

THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO BE A FAMILY.

!

I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA FOR YOU TO JOIN THEM!

OF COURSE, YOU'D NEED TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO LET IT SLIP THAT WE AREN'T A REAL FAMILY...

YAWN

THE MORE PLACES YOU HAVE OUTSIDE THE HOME WHERE YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK AND RELAX, THE BETTER.

WE MAY ALL HAVE GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO OUR LIFE TOGETHER, POSING AS A FAMILY, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN OUR LIVES ARE FREE OF STRESS.

NOW, I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE YURI.

BUT I'M SURE THERE ARE THINGS THAT YOU'D RATHER DISCUSS WITH OTHER WOMEN OR WITH FRIENDS.

BUT HAVING KINDRED SPIRITS YOU CAN TALK TO IS A VERY IMPORTANT THING.

...AND GO TALK AND HAVE FUN WITH YOUR NEW FRIENDS.

I THINK THAT KIND OF "NORMAL" IS SOME-THING YOU DESERVE TO HAVE TOO.

SO TAKE ALL THOSE THINGS YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SHARE ...

LOID...

THEN THIS COULD LOWER YOR'S RISK OF BEING REPORTED.

MELINDA DESMOND...

IF SHE TRULY HAS NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE HERE...

AND WHO KNOWS, SHE MIGHT EVEN BRING BACK A USEFUL PIECE OF GOSSIP OR TWO FROM THEIR OUTINGS.

THEY SAY PEOPLE WHO AREN'T ACTIVE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE AT HIGHER RISK OF BEING REPORTED. THIS LADY PATRIOTS SOCIETY SHOULD KEEP YOU SAFE FROM THAT.

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD ADD, THERE'S ANOTHER ANGLE HERE TOO.

I... HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT.

AND THE MOST ENTICING POSSIBILITY ...

WELL, I WOULDN'T QUITE SAY... UH... SURE, LIKE THAT.

PAPA DOESN'T THINK OF SCRUFFY AS A FRIEND. Poor thing.

I'll do it!

NEW FRIENDS! WHY, MELINDA COULD BE LIKE MY FRANKY!

AND IF MELINDA IS PLAYING SOME SORT OF GAME HERE, I'LL BE WATCHING— READY TO PROTECT YOR.

SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF THE ANYA-AND-DAMIAN PLAN B...

IN THAT CASE, A BURGEONING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN YOR AND MELINDA COULD BE THE KEY TO DEVELOPING A NEW AVENUE OF ATTACK.

WHAT IF THE DESMOND FAMILY ISN'T AS ESTRANGED FROM EACH OTHER AS WISE'S RESEARCH BELIEVES?

GASP

A NEW PLAN C: THE MOMMY-FRIENDS SCHEME!

Anyway, those are my thoughts.

IN FACT, DEPENDING ON MELINDA'S STANDING WITHIN THE FAMILY, THIS COULD PROVE AN EVEN MORE DIRECT ROUTE TO DONOVAN THAN PLAN B WITH DAMIAN!

DOOM

...DOES THAT MEAN I'M GETTING CANNED?!

IF PLAN C IS A SUCCESS, THEN...

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
SO THIS IS IT!
?
ME AND SY-ON BOY, OR MAMA AND SY-ON BOY'S MOM...
NOW IT'S A RACE TO SEE WHO CAN MAKE FRIENDS FIRST.
WELL, THIS SURE EXCAVATED QUICKLY.

THE BATTLE OF THE FRIEND-SHIP SCHEMES !!!

BOOM

I CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE THIS BATTLE!
THE FIRST SHOT HAS JUST BEEN FIRED.

YOU SURE HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED LATELY.

Right now? Why?

TMP TMP TMP

PAPA! I'M GOING TO DO MY HOMEWORK!

I HAVE TO DO SOME-THING!

ZZZZZZZZ

COME ON...

LET'S SEE... LET'S SEE...

I NEED TO THINK OF WAYS FOR ME AND SY-ON BOY TO BECOME BETTER FRIENDS.

SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT SKRIT

IF MELINDA REALLY IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT PERSON, SHOULDN'T I RUN THIS BY THE SHOP-KEEPER?!

OH! THAT'S RIGHT!

FRIENDS... HUH...

CHIRP CHIRP

I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THAT.

YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THE CHAIR-MAN'S WIFE?

IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN, THEN OF COURSE...

...FOR THAT REASON, I WOULDN'T EXACTLY RECOMMEND IT.

NOW, SHE IS A CONSERVA-TIVE...

YOU DON'T? OH, THAT'S A RELIEF.

AT THE VERY LEAST, WATCH IT OR YOUR HUSBAND WILL START THINKING YOU HAVE ONE-SIDED POLITICAL BELIEFS.

SNIP

110 千二

SNIP

...

SNIP

BESIDES, LOID MET MR. DESMOND AND SAID HE SEEMED LIKE A GOOD PERSON.

HE SAID HE WAS PRETTY INTERESTED IN HIS NATIONAL UNITY THING? WHATEVER IT'S CALLED.

OH, I DON'T THINK THAT SHOULD BE A PROBLEM.

DID HE NOW?

RIIING

RIIING

BECKY, LISTEN...

GOOD MORNING, ANYA!

HUH? WHAT IS IT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S MORNING, AND I DIDN'T THINK OF A SINGLE PLAN.

GLOOM

SQUEEEE

YOU WANT TO KNOW A WAY YOU CAN GET CLOSER TO DAMIAN MORE QUICKLY?

THEN IT'S TIME TO STOP WAITING FOR HIS MOVE AND GO ON THE ATTACK!

SO YOU'RE FINALLY READY TO GET SERIOUS?

SHOVE

RMPH!

NOW JUST HOLD IT IN YOUR MOUTH!

TMP TMP TMP

HERE, I BOUGHT A YAKISOBA BURGER AT THE SCHOOL STORE!

THAT'S ALL IT TAKES!

THERE'S A TIME-TESTED TECHNIQUE IN WHICH A GIRL TURNS A CORNER HOLDING A PIECE OF BREAD IN HER MOUTH AND BUMPS INTO A BOY, AND THEIR LIVES BECOME LINKED FOREVER.

HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO, ANYA.

BONK

LOVE♡

REALLY?

NOW!

YESH!

ARE YOU READY? LOVE'S ALL ABOUT TIMING!

MMF! MMF!

AND THERE HE IS!

FRIEND-SHIP CRASH !!!

BAM

NO, ANYA! DON'T CRASH INTO HIM! JUST A BONK!

TMP

FWSH

Saw that comin' from a mile away.

HEH. YOU THINK I'M GONNA KEEP FALLIN' FOR YOUR STUPID ATTACKS THAT EASILY?

HUH ?!

BWA HA HA!

Heh heh heh!

JUST LOOK AT HER. IT'S LIKE SHE'S EATING BREAD OFF THE GROUND LIKE AN ANIMAL.

EXPERTLY DONE, BOSS MAN!

SPLAK

OH!

HACK

ENURE!

OH, WOW, DAMIAN. KINDA LOOKS LIKE YOU TWO COULD BE TWINS!

HEH HEH HEH

I'M SO SORRY FOR WASTING FOOD...

BAM

BAM

BAM

BAM

BWAAAHH?!

NNNGAAH!!!

BACK OFF, ANYA! TIME TO PLAY HARD TO GET!

Let's get out of here!

DAMIAN, NO! YOU'LL GET A TONITRUS IF YOU HIT HER!

You're gonna pay for that!

YOR & MELINDA FRIENDSHIP LEVEL: +10
ANYA & DAMIAN FRIENDSHIP LEVEL: -100

To be continued!